

The DODSON BIRDHOUSES

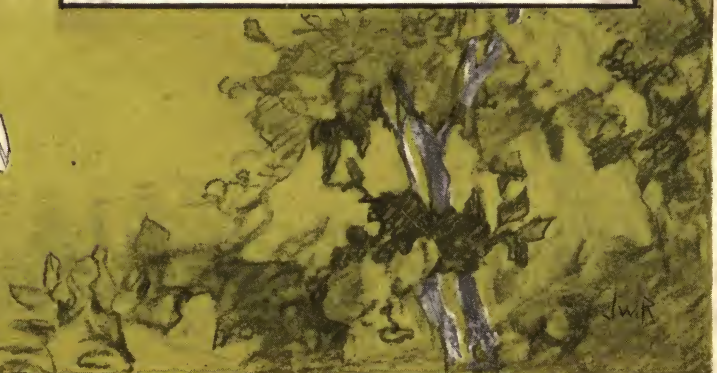




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WINNING BACK OUR NATIVE BIRDS



LOVE BIRDS—that is the reason for this little book and everything here set down is explained by that—I love the birds.

Birds have made my life happier and I want them to exert the inspiring influence on others as they have on me. Make friends with our native birds—that is my message. The birds richly repay you for the trouble you take in attracting them and looking out for their interests.

In this booklet I am going to tell you how to attract and win birds so that the same families will return to you every year. I have done this at my home in Evanston, near Chicago, at my farm in Michigan and at my winter home in the Isle of Pines. I have helped hundreds of others to win and keep bird friends—men who live in towns and cities all over this country. Many who have only a little patch of city garden have induced song birds to live with them by putting up Dodson Bird Houses. This is a greater achievement than helping the rich men who have many acres; but the blessed little birds make no distinction between rich and poor.

This building of bird houses is not a business with me—it is a pleasure, a hobby, and not for profit. I think you will agree with me that, in the end, it is a great work for good. My own work is in financial affairs and yet there is no success in my





life that I value higher than my success as an architect for birds.

I tell you this because I want you as you read my talks about bird houses, to realize that my first interest is always for the birds and bird-loving men and women—not merely to sell my own devices.



Mrs. Dodson and Dodson
Sheltered Food House

ATTRACTING AND PROTECTING NATIVE BIRDS

Many people who have attempted to win birds have failed. I can easily understand this looking back over my experience of 18 years in building houses for birds. These people have made little mistakes in the houses, or in the location of those houses, or else they have failed to give the attention or protection which wild birds should have. It is not so difficult to win birds if you set out the houses that perfectly satisfy them, and that give the birds a fair chance for a safe and comfortable life in your garden. At my home in Evanston I have from 300 to 400 birds living with me every summer. I have birds at my Michigan farm and birds at my home on the Isle of Pines. These birds live with us and are our friends. I want other birds to live with you and be your friends. I am willing and anxious to help you attract them. It will not be necessary to teach you to love them for you just can't help it.



Give the birds a chance; I promise they will be a factor of joy in your life. I have always been interested in birds; even when a boy I built Wren, Martin and Bluebird houses and then studied their habits. They are so interesting.



Birds Live in City Yards

Talk about the busy bee, why, they are not in it when it comes to mother Martin feeding her four young ones. It is too amusing for anything to see their mouths wide open. The mother starts feeding with No. 1 and with careful rotation No. 2 is fed next; then No. 3, and when No. 4's turn comes his mouth is surely wide open. After he has been fed the mother will

start all over again with No. 1, which, by the way, is always the smallest and weakest bird. How do I know this? Because I watch them with powerful binoculars which bring them up so close that I can see every move they make.

Now, in the first place you can't have birds unless you prepare for them,—by that I mean, erect houses for them. This is absolutely necessary, and the houses should be so erected that the birds will be in the least danger of being annoyed. There are enough things that can happen to them without the location of the houses being wrong. After these houses are put up properly and occupied, as they surely will be, then the birds must be protected from their natural enemies,—Cats, English Sparrows and Squirrels.

Birds are beautiful. They add a charm to life and fill one with the cheer of freedom and the spirit of a summer morn.

How many birds do you know when you see them? Get one or more Dodson Bird Houses and have more friends with wings.

BIRD HOUSES



Birds Live With Us and Are Our Friends



BANISH THE ENGLISH SPARROW

The English Sparrow must go. The bird has wrought a great deal of evil to our country chiefly by its activity in driving away native song birds. I urge you to read the extracts from the United States Government Bulletin which are quoted on pages 18-19. The scientists who have made a study of birds in their relation to agriculture and horticulture are all agreed in condemning the sparrow. I believe that the Dodson Sparrow Trap is the simplest and yet the most effective means for fighting this feathered pest. Everywhere in the country these traps are being set out and every one of them is successfully serving its owner by capturing many sparrows. One of the first traps I sold went to a gentleman in Cleveland, and a few days after he received it he wrote me that on the first day it was set out he caught between 75 and 100 sparrows. I have



hundreds of letters from other delighted purchasers testifying to the success of the trap.

While I am proud of the good work the Dodson Bird Houses have done I am inclined to believe that the Dodson Sparrow Trap is accomplishing more real good for native birds, by its effective service in helping us get rid of the sparrow, than any other one device I have produced.

If you want to help us in this good work of fighting the sparrow in order to save the song birds of America, set out a Dodson Sparrow Trap. During the cold months when food is scarce you can catch more sparrows than at any other time. The trap works successfully, however, at any season of the year and should be working all the time so long as there are any sparrows about your place.

CATS AND SQUIRRELS



People Should Set Out More Bird Houses

Most of us who study the birds know that the cat is a constant menace—a sly and dangerous enemy to our dear little friends. Those people who keep cats do not, I am sure, realize the fact that the inborn desire to kill is present in every cat, and that wherever birds and cats are together the birds are in constant danger. If

you have birds about your place you should do all that you can to protect them against the hunting expeditions of stray cats.

In some country places the squirrels are a menace to native birds. If your houses are built of the right material and properly hung the squirrels do not bother the birds very much.

BIRD HOUSES

When it is found that they do get to the birds' houses it is very easy to place a tin or wire screen around the trees from which the houses are hung; this serves to keep the squirrels from climbing up. In Evanston for a number of years there was a penalty attached to the killing of squirrels. We learned, however, that the squirrels destroyed our birds' nests and were causing song birds to leave us. The law protecting the squirrels has been repealed. We know that the birds are worth more than the squirrels.



PUT UP A BIRD BATH

As a further inducement you should put up a bird bath. It must be kept clean and have fresh water every day during the hot weather. A bird bath helps to attract the wild birds more than any other thing,—after the bird houses are up. The bath should be placed out in the open, for if it is near the trees or shrubs, the birds will shun it, fearing their old enemy, the cat.

It is extremely interesting to watch the birds bathe. Almost any afternoon we can see ten or fifteen different varieties standing on the edge of our fountain, waiting their turn. Rarely two go into the bath at the same time. One will bathe,



The Dodson Purple Martin House
(Cottage Style)

An attractive home for these most sociable birds. Perfectly ventilated. 26 rooms and attic. Size, 17 inches wide, 21 inches long, not including 5 inch porch which extends on all sides, height from bottom to peak of roof 26 inches, flag pole 18 inches. Over-all dimensions—height 44 inches, width 27 inches, length 31 inches. Price, \$12.00 f. o. b. Chicago; with all copper roof \$15.00. (see Dodson Self-Raising Pole page 22)

fly up in the pear tree and prune its feathers while another takes its place.



One day last summer there were fifteen or more birds in, around and on the bath,—a Scarlet Tanager, Brown Thrasher, Bluejay, Bluebird, Wren, Cat Bird, Flicker, Gold Finch, Black Bird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Tree or White Bellied Swallow, Baltimore Oriole and several kinds of Warblers.



(Patent
Applied
For)

The Dodson Wren House

One of my most successful houses. Built of clear solid oak; roof of cypress with copper coping, well ventilated and easily cleaned. Size, 28x18 inches. Price \$5.00 f. o. b. Chicago. The Wren House is designed to hang from limb of a tree.

AS THE BIRDS SEE IT

Birds are just like human beings. While Mr. Bird may like the house all right Mrs. Bird may not like the location. How many times have you refused a house because you didn't like the location? Then again, another pair of birds might come along and say "This is a fine location, this just suits us."



People don't buy and put out nearly enough bird houses. I don't say this because I want people to get my bird houses but because I want people to get the birds and the more houses they have out, the more successful they will be in attracting the song birds around them; and the birds will eventually take possession of all the houses that they have out.

Birds like houses; just as you and I do. People that own houses become attached to them and while other places may be more attractive perhaps, or better situated, still there is a charm

BIRD HOUSES

about the old place they don't like to give up and so they live their lives there on that very place. Now you take my place in Evanston for instance. I wouldn't want to sell that place. Nothing could induce me to. Why? Because I have surrounded myself with beautiful shrubs, flowers and trees I planted myself and there is that attraction about it that nothing except extreme necessity would compel me to give

it up. The little birds are just the same. I know this. They talk to each other when they go south and they say, "Where are you going next summer?" One of them says, "Well I don't know, I went to Po Dunk last summer but they didn't treat me very well there and an old cat got hold of my young ones." Another says, "Why don't you come with me to Dodson's in Evanston. He has a fine place and there are no cats there. I was there last year and raised three broods of young and they are all husky, healthy kids now. I was over there just before I came away and sat an hour on my little house and looked everything over to be sure that things were going to be the same next year, so it is me for Dodson's. You had better come along."

I believe they talk this way. I am sure they talk so to Mrs. Dodson. We can go out on the lawn and there will be from 150 to 200 song birds and we can walk right among them as if they were so many chickens; but let us take a stranger along and there isn't a bird in sight. Now, it shouldn't be this way. There is no reason why they should be afraid of strangers; but the plume hunters have caused



The Martins Near Mr. Dodson's House





The Dodson Bluebird House
Patent Applied For)

Hundreds of these are now tenanted by Bluebirds all over the country. Built of clear solid oak with cypress shingle roof and copper coping. Well ventilated and easily cleaned. Size, 21 inches high, 16 inches in diameter.

Price \$5.00 f. o. b. Chicago.

this fear, and the ladies have created the plume hunters by wearing feathers on their hats.

DODSON BIRD HOUSES MAKE
THE BIRDS COME BACK TO
YOU EVERY YEAR

Attracting native birds to our home grounds is one thing, holding them, year after year, is quite another. The true bird-lover wants his old friends back every spring. He would rather have new bird friends than none at all, but the delight of recognizing last year's feathered tenants and observing their family affairs is one of his keenest pleasures.




Wrens and Bluebirds can be attracted by houses carefully designed to meet their simple but very definite requirements. When it comes to retaining

them close study reveals an important point to be covered. These birds never raise a second brood in the same nest. Wrens raise two broods each year; Bluebirds two and often three broods.

If a single compartment-house is provided either Wrens or Bluebirds are sure to desert you before one summer has passed. I have hundreds of native birds every year on my grounds. The Dodson Wren House and the Dodson Bluebird House are built with four compartments in each. The birds move from one compartment to another and so one house satisfies a family of birds, not merely one year, but year after year. By banding



BIRD HOUSES



my birds I have proven that the same ones return to me every spring. At the same time I continually add to my colony; the birds tell their friends about me, I'm sure.

Often two families of Bluebirds occupy one house. I build the house large enough to prevent the quarrels that crowded quarters often inspire. One of my Wren houses has been occupied every summer for twelve years and I am positive that the tenants are all of the same family which "took the house" twelve years ago.

This "holding the birds" is one great big advantage of all Dodson Bird Houses. My houses are built with this end in view. They satisfy the birds. They are easily cleaned—and perfectly ventilated.

If you want the birds and want them to stay with you, and to return to you every year, buy Dodson Bird Houses—the houses the birds have approved.

SONG BIRDS SAVE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR

I have been talking to you first about winning birds for the beauty and tenderness they add to our lives. It is



(Patent Applied For)

The Dodson Hanging Bluebird House

For many years I have tried to induce the Bluebirds to live in a hanging house. They, naturally, prefer the house set on the pole shown on page 10. By many experiments however, I have devised the house shown above so that it has proven successful in many instances in winning Bluebirds as tenants. This house, I wish it distinctly understood, is not so sure to attract Bluebirds as my other Bluebird house. I present it here merely as a variation and particularly recommend it to those who have a pair or more of Bluebirds about their place and are willing to experiment in trying to get other Bluebirds. This house is built without any projecting point on which the birds can cling. This prevents the sparrows from entering it. The Bluebird house should be hung on a limb close to the trunk of a tree, not more than 15 or 20 feet above the ground. Price \$5.00, f. o. b. Chicago.



The Dodson Sexangular Flicker or Golden Winged Woodpecker House.

26½ inches long, 12 inches wide and 8 inches deep. Built of selected one inch Norway. Roof of clear cypress shingle; copper coping. A very artistic, beautiful and successful design. Ventilated. Detachable bottom, making it easily cleaned. Price \$5.00, f. o. b. Chicago.

really a great joy and one that renews itself every year; it becomes a source of greater and greater pleasure every year to live with the birds. I loved and worked for the birds for many years before I appreciated their great value to the world as protectors—God sent—against the devouring insects. Now I am going to place before you briefly a few facts of tremendous importance:



The native birds of America are worth millions upon millions of dollars yearly in the service they give by destroying insect life and thereby protecting, in a measure, our grains and our fruit trees.

The loss to this country through the destructive work of insects has been variously estimated by students of the subject to be certainly more than \$400,000,000, and by some authorities to be as high as \$800,000,000 a year. The codling moth and curculio apple pest cost us \$12,000,000 a year in the reduced value of the apple crop and more than \$8,000,000 a year in the cost of spraying the trees to keep them from destroying even more. The chinch bug reduces the value of our annual wheat crop about \$20,000,000 a year and the cotton-boll weevil cuts a good \$20,000,000 a year out of the value of this country's cotton crop. These are only a few of the leading insect pests.

The records of the United States Biological Survey show that the green leaf louse, a very destructive insect, multiplies at the rate of ten sextillion to the pair in one season. The potato bug, another expensive pest, does not reproduce so rapidly. One pair multiplies to from



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50,000,000 to 60,000,000 in one season. Authorities state that if unchecked the natural increase of the gypsy moth would in eight years result in the defoliation of all the trees in this country.



BIRDS ARE NATURAL PROTECTORS

Martins on the Wing

Nature gave us birds as a natural combative force against the ravages of insects. We imported the English Sparrow—that was not Nature's fault. We should rectify our error, drive out the sparrow, work together and bring back our native song birds. Let me quote you a few figures gathered from the reports of the United States Government Scientists.




“By far the most efficient aids to man in controlling the codling moth are the birds.”—Year Book (1911) of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It has been shown that the codling moth does more damage to apples and pears than all other insects combined. Thirty-six species of birds attack this insect. In some localities the birds destroy from 66% to 85% of the hibernating larvæ of these insects. More than 50 species of birds feed upon caterpillars and 36 species live largely upon destructive plant lice. Professor Forbush states that a single Yellow-Throated Warbler will consume 10,000 tree lice in a day. A Scarlet Tanager has been closely





watched and seen to devour gypsy moths at the rate of 35 a minute for 18 minutes at a time. Edward F. Forbush reports seeing a pair of Crossbeaks visit their nest 450 times in eleven hours, carrying to their young two or more larvæ at a time. One of the reports of the Biological Survey records finding 60 grasshoppers in the crop of one Night Hawk and 500 mosquitoes in another; 30 cut worms in the crop of a Black Bird; 70 canker worms in the crop of a Cedar Bird. I myself, at one time  had the stomach of a female Martin, which had been shot by a boy, carefully examined and it contained more than 2,000 mosquitoes, a large number of house flies, May-rose and striped cucumber beetles and several other kinds of insects. It is simply amazing to one who has not made a close study of the subject what a tremendous amount of good work in destroying insects is accomplished by our native birds.

I never have to spray the fruit trees at my Evanston place and I attribute this altogether to the protection my birds give to my trees. The Purple Martin is recognized as one of the most useful birds in the fight against insect life.

TIME TO SET OUT BIRD HOUSES



The ideal time to set out bird houses is during the fall or winter. I find that birds don't like their houses to be brand new—a little "weather beating" makes the house more natural to them. This, however, only applies the first time the houses are put out; after they are occupied once the birds will return year after year to the same house. Many customers of mine have put up houses as late as June or July

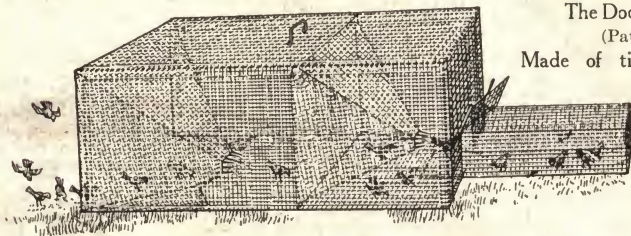
BIRD HOUSES

and still won birds, but the earlier the houses are placed, the better chance you have of getting the first comers.

KEEPING BIRDS WITH YOU IN WINTER

Leave the houses up the year round. They are substantially built, made to last a man's life time. Many birds stay with us in the north all the year. Birds go south chiefly because they cannot get enough food during winter in the northern states. Many species will go anyhow for love of warmth and sunshine, but a good many birds can be kept north all winter if they are provided with food. I have proven this, and, after years of effort, I have perfected several designs of bird food houses and shelters which my bird friends assure me are just the things they want most.

It has added a great deal to my pleasure to have the birds stay with me—some of them only a month or two longer than they used to stay, some of them all winter long. It has given me even more pleasure to know that my food shelters have saved the lives of many little birds. Few people realize how many birds starve during the sudden cold snaps, particularly when snow covers the ground. I wish you all realized this; I



The Dodson Sparrow Trap
(Patent Applied For)

Made of tinned wire, electrically welded, strong and durable—will last for years. The Dodson Trap has sharp, adjustable needle points projecting from the mouth of each of the two funnels, which

effectively prevent any sparrows from getting out of either the front or second enclosure. Size 36x18x12 inches. Price \$5.00 complete with receiving box, f.o.b. Chicago. See pages 18 and 19.

THE DODSON



know you would all lend a hand in feeding birds and would teach the young folks to look out for our friends in the air. It seems to me that boys and girls of our bustling times are not taught to be so thoughtful as we used to be. This is not a peevish cry of "Those were the good old days." I believe we are going to have still better days because the American people are now alive to the great need we have for our native birds and the wonderful service these birds give in protecting our grains and fruits from insect life.

BIRDS YOU CAN WIN TO LIVE WITH YOU

The houses I build and sell are particularly designed for Purple Martins, Bluebirds, Wrens, Flickers, White Bellied or Tree Swallows, Chickadees, Nuthatches and Fly Catchers. This is because these birds are the most easily attracted to man-made houses. They are, also, among the most valuable, most sociable and most delightful of all birds.


There are dozens of other birds, however, which are won to you by setting out the Dodson Bird Houses. Among




BIRD HOUSES



Mr.
Dodson's
Home at
Evanston,
near
Chicago



the three or four hundred birds which live in my garden in Evanston, near Chicago, there are Robins, Blackbirds, Orioles, Cat Birds, Brown Thrashers, Warblers, and others, besides all those varieties just mentioned. They insist upon building their own nests—some of these fellows—but they benefit by my bird baths, and many build nests on my shelter shelves.



They know they are welcome, know that they are protected from the English Sparrow and the cat. They like to live near the other birds; and they are all welcome—all except the sparrow, who has forfeited all rights by his mean, quarrelsome selfishness, his uselessness to man and his uncleanness. For love of native birds, I banish the sparrow.

Conservation of native birds is a duty—it is coming to be recognized as a necessity. Help save the birds.

If one who has fruit trees has no native birds about, you may be sure he has worms and insects.

The English Sparrow as a Pest

Extracts From Farmers' Bulletin, 493 U. S. Department of Agriculture

THE English Sparrow among birds, like the rat among mammals, is cunning, destructive, and filthy. Its natural diet consists of seeds, but it eats a great variety of other foods.

As a flock of 50 Sparrows requires daily the equivalent of a quart of wheat, the annual loss caused by these birds throughout the country is very great. It reduces the number of some of our most useful and attractive native birds, as Bluebirds, House Wrens, Purple Martins, Tree Swallows, Cliff Swallows and Barn Swallows, by destroying their eggs and young and by usurping nesting places. It attacks other familiar species, as the Robin, Wren, Red-Eyed Vireo, Cat Bird and Mocking Bird, causing them to desert parks and shady streets of towns. Unlike our native birds whose place it usurps, it has no song, but is noisy and vituperative. It defiles buildings and ornamental trees, shrubs and vines with its excrement and with its bulky nests.



The evidence against the English Sparrow is, on the whole, overwhelming, and the present unfriendly attitude of the public towards it is reflected in our State Laws. Nowhere is it included among protected birds.

Although English Sparrows are widely distributed as a species, individuals and flocks have an extremely narrow range, each flock occupying one locality to which its activities are chiefly confined. This fact is favorable to their extermination, for when a place has once been cleared of sparrows some time elapses before it is reoccupied. This tendency to remain on special territory was well shown during a recent experiment with a flock in a small city garden. During the fall steady trapping reduced the resident flock in the garden to a dozen individuals, 274 birds having been trapped. The survivors were poisoned. Though another flock lived in the street just beyond the fence, the garden was sparrow-free for three months. In the following spring a few sparrows appeared, but were soon trapped. After this the garden continued throughout the summer without a resident flock, and only rarely was it visited by sparrows from other parts of the neighborhood.



Aiding Native Birds Against the English Sparrow

One of the greatest objections to the English Sparrow is its aggressive antagonism towards the small native birds, especially those familiar species which, like itself, build their nests in cavities. Nest boxes provided for Bluebirds, Martins or Wrens—birds both useful and pleasing—too often fall into the possession of this graceless alien. Fortunately it is possible to aid the native birds by selecting suitable nesting boxes.

BIRD HOUSES

English Sparrows as Food

In most localities in the United States English Sparrows are a pest. There is, therefore, no reason why the birds should not be utilized for food in this country, as they have in the Old World for centuries. Their flesh is palatable, and though their bodies are small, their numbers fully compensate for their lack of size. Birds that have been trapped may be kept alive in large outdoor cages, sheltered from storms and cold winds, until they are wanted for the table. It is unprofitable to keep them long, however, as the quantity of grain or other food they require daily amounts to more than half their own weight. A variety of food is necessary to keep them in good condition. Bread, oats, wheat, bran and corn meal, lettuce, cabbage and tender shoots of spring grain are some of the things they relish. A supply of clean water is essential.

To kill mercifully a sparrow that has been trapped, place the thumb nail at the base of its skull and dislocate its neck by hard and quick pressure. To dress it, cut off the legs, the wings at the outer joint, and the neck close to the body; strip off the skin, beginning at the neck; make a cut through the body wall extending from the neck along the backbone till the ribs are severed, then around between the legs to the tail, and remove the viscera.

If sparrows are to be broiled, and parches the off a strip of skin front of the body, pull separate the



save only the breasts, as this method of cooking so shrivels lesser parts as to render them worthless. In this case tear from wing to wing across the back; grasp the wings in in one hand and the neck in the other, and by a quick breast from the ribs; turn the breast out of the skin that covers it, and sever the wings at the second joint. The whole operation requires but a fraction of a minute, and it can be done by the fingers alone.

Sparrows may be cooked by any of the methods employed for Reedbirds or Quail. When boned, broiled, buttered and served on toast, they are particularly good and compare favorably with the best kind of small game.

Summary

English Sparrows are abundant in most of the towns in the United States and in many suburban districts. They are noisy, filthy, and destructive. They drive native birds from villages and homesteads. Practicable methods of dealing with them include destruction of nests, shooting, trapping and poisoning. Of these, trapping is unquestionably the best. English Sparrows are good to eat, and their use as food is recommended because of their nutritive value and as a means of reducing their number.

The Dodson Sparrow Trap, illustrated and described on page 15, is catching thousands of sparrows all over this country. Will you help?



THE DODSON

DODSON SHELTERED FOOD HOUSE

Built of clear white pine—size 24x24x18 inches—price with 8 foot pole, f. o. b. Chicago, \$8.00—with copper roof, \$10.00. Furnished with two automatic hoppers, wire feed rack and hooks for suet.

FEEDING BIRDS

Suet is one of the most attractive and necessary foods for birds. Hemp and Sunflower seeds are good, and meat scraps

(Patent
Applied For)

and bread crumbs should be given at times. The birds will require very little or no attention in the matter of food during the late spring and summer, but early in the spring and in the fall and winter it is well to care for them by setting out the Dodson Sheltered Food House or one of the other Dodson devices shown in this booklet.

DODSON AUTOMATIC SHELTERED FEEDING TABLE

Built of clear white pine; size 24x22x12 inches. Price with 8 foot turned pole, f. o. b. Chicago, \$6.00; with copper roof, \$7.50. Furnished with automatic hopper for grain, wire feed rack and hooks for suet.

The Dodson Sheltered Feeding Table is arranged on the weather-vane principle—it swings with the wind, so that the resting and feeding place of the birds is always sheltered from the wind, storms, snow and rain. Both of these houses have proven their popularity with my birds. I have tried them out for several years, until I am convinced that it is impossible to make any improvement on the designs.

(Patent
Applied For)

BIRD HOUSES

CHARM AND VALUE OF PURPLE MARTINS

Is there anything in the bird world that represents home life and community of interests as well as a colony of Martins? Contentment, happiness, prosperity are here, and the cheerful, social twitter of the Martins and their industrious habits are a continual sermon from the air to their brothers of the earth. The

only note of discord in one of these happy colony houses is from the pugnacious English Sparrow, who covets the comfortable homes of the Martin and tries to evict the rightful owners and substitute his harsh, disagreeable chatter for their pleasant voices.

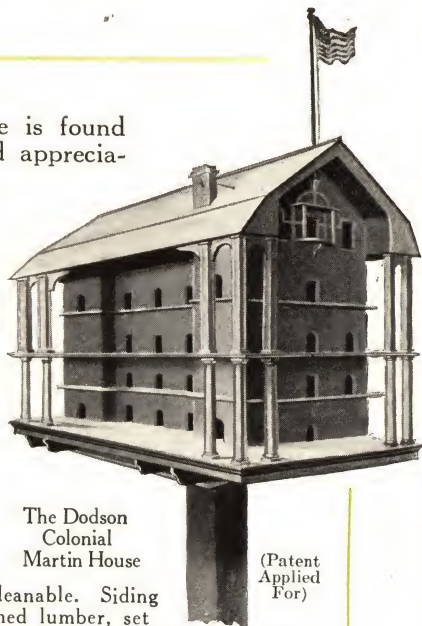
The value of the Martin to the human race is very great. The birds are so pre-eminently aerial that their food necessarily consists of flying insects. Among these may be some of the dreaded *Stregomyia*. It is a well established fact that this and other species of mosquito convey both malarial and yellow fever. Every mosquito therefore, that is destroyed by a Martin, or, in fact, by any bird, lessens so much the chance of the spread of fever plagues. Human lives are sacrificed every year; immense sums of money are expended for investigation and prevention of yellow fever, yet in



The Dodson Observation House
for Bluebirds or Wrens

Size—18 inches long, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. This house is especially built for bird lovers who desire to study the young birds and their habits. One side is entirely glass, over which a door is hinged and so closely fitted that it cannot be noticed. By opening this door it enables one to study the methods and feeding of the young birds. This house is a source of great pleasure to me and others who have purchased it. State in ordering whether for Bluebirds or Wrens, as it is built with but one compartment. Price \$4.00. With all copper roof, \$5.00 f.o.b. Chicago.

some localities where this scourge is found the Martin is not understood and appreciated as it should be. If only one human life is saved each year through the destruction of fever-bearing mosquitoes by the Martin, and other birds, it is a sufficient reason why the lives of these valuable birds should be sacred.—William Dutcher, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies.



THE DODSON COLONIAL MARTIN HOUSE

56 rooms. Built of clear white pine with copper roof. Turned porch columns and paneled pilasters. All rooms cleanable. Siding saw marked to imitate matched lumber, set on 6x6 inch post equipped with my device for easy raising. Post enters base of house and ascends through two stories. No fastening needed. Painted two coats of pure white lead. 38 inches long, 26 inches wide, 44 inches high, porch 6 inches. Price with pole equipped with our device for easy raising, \$65.00, f. o. b. Chicago.

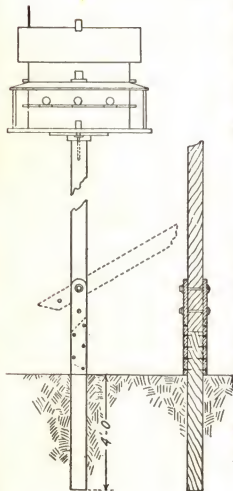
The Dodson Colonial Martin House

(Patent Applied For)

THE DODSON EASY RAISING POLE FOR MARTIN HOUSES

Made of selected yellow pine. Set on bolt hinge with self-locking device as shown in sketch.

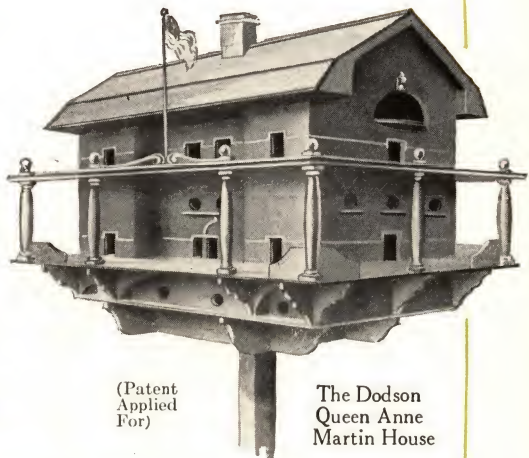
- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Size 6x6 inches, 20 feet long, for Martin and Dove Cote Houses, pages 22, 23, and 24 | - - - - - \$6.00 |
| Size 4x4 inches, 20 feet long, for Martin House, page 7 | - - - - - 5.00 |
| Size 3x3 inches, 18 feet long, for Bluebird, Fly Catcher and Swallow Houses, pages 10 and 31 | - - - - - 4.00 |



BIRD HOUSES

THE DODSON QUEEN ANNE MARTIN HOUSE

42 rooms. Built of clear white pine with copper roof. Turned porch columns. Every room accessible and cleanable. Pole enters base of house and ascends through two stories of building. No fastening needed. Painted two coats of pure white lead. Price, with 20 foot 6x6 inch pole equipped with my patent device for easy raising, \$45.00 f. o. b. Chicago. Length 36 inches. Width 26 inches. Height 38 inches. Porch 6 inches.



(Patent
Applied
For)

The Dodson
Queen Anne
Martin House

PUT OUT BIRD HOUSES EARLY.

I want to urge all bird lovers to put out houses for the birds as early as possible. I have found by long experience that the birds are much more likely to take possession of a house that is not brand new. Get your bird house placed so that the appearance of "newness" will at least partially have disappeared before the birds come along in spring. Birds are very particular little beings and you may be surprised to know that I



have to be very careful not to paint the inside of the compartments, or even the edges of the doorways leading to the compartments, until the house has been once occupied. After that it doesn't seem to make any difference. Get a Dodson Bird House put up just as early as you possibly can.



THE DODSON



(Patent
Applied For)

The Dodson
Dove Cote

THE DODSON DOVE COTE

50 rooms. Built of clear white pine. Substantially framed, having open runway from four sides of third story and uncovered porch running around the entire cote; things suited to active birds, such as pigeons, who love to play around their home. Shingled with miniature shingles. Siding saw marked to represent narrow boards. Openings trimmed. Post enters base and extends upwards through two stories. No fastening needed. Painted two coats pure white lead. Roof stained green. Body light drab. Trim white. 40 inches wide, 56 inches long, 72 inches high. Price with pole equipped with my device for easy raising (pole 6x6 inches—16 feet high)—\$70.00, f. o. b. Chicago. Copper roof for this Cote, extra, \$5.00.

Getting Rid of Sparrows—More Than 200 Eliminated Here

We have found the sparrow trap which we purchased of you sometime ago entirely effective in ridding our house and grounds of the English Sparrows which infested them. We have caught, since purchasing the trap, over two hundred sparrows and no other birds have entered the trap.

July 19th, 1913.

Samuel Dauchy, Chicago, Ill.

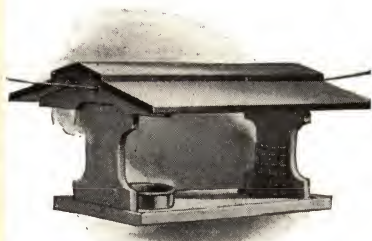
Enclosed is sparrow catch report to date:

From June 19th to July	- - - - -	188 sparrows
To July 14th	- - - - -	149 sparrows
		<hr/> 337 sparrows

I am well pleased with the sparrow trap.
July 14th, 1913.

Frank G. Palmerton, Saginaw, Mich.

BIRD HOUSES



The Dodson Feeding Car
(Patent Applied For)

By gradually moving the car closer to the house I was able last winter, to feed Chickadees and Nuthatches out of my hand at the open window. Children get even more delight from the care and close observation of birds than we grown-up people; but bird friends are fascinating to us all.

The feeding car is 23x15 inches and 11 inches high. It is equipped with drinking cup, wire feeding rack, automatic food hopper and hooks for suet, and with it are furnished 50 feet of galvanized wire and a 50 foot cord. Price with plain roof, \$5.00, with copper roof, \$6.00; f. o. b. Chicago.

The Cruelty of Sparrows

I have had a pair of Redbirds boarding with me for several years. I have Robins, Brown Thrashers, Thrushes, House Wrens, Carolina Wrens, Yellow-birds, Cat-birds, Chickadees, Flickers, Meadow-Larks, Kingbirds, Purple Grackle, etc. One year an English Sparrow Cock threw five young bluebirds out of their nest. Three were killed. The old birds placed two back in the nest. The next day the sparrow threw these out again—the old birds replaced them. The sparrow seemed to be “possessed.” I had to keep under cover but I got him.—*From a letter to Mr. Dodson by A. J. Norton, Bellaire, Ohio*



THE DODSON

THE DODSON FEEDING SHELF



The Dodson Feeding
Shelf
(Patent Applied For)

The feeding shelf here illustrated is designed to be fastened to a tree or hung in the shrubbery. It is 16 inches high, 14 inches wide and has a feeding shelf 5½ inches deep. This shelf is equipped with automatic feeder for grain or ground food, a hook for suet and a wire feeding rack for meat scraps. Many bird lovers buy a number of these tables and set them about at different places among the trees or in the shrubbery.

Price \$1.50 with plain roof, \$2.00 with copper roof, f. o. b. Chicago. For six houses with plain roofs, \$8.00; six houses with copper roofs, \$11.00, f. o. b. Chicago.

Feed Birds the Year Round

Most of us who love birds keep our feeding devices out all the time. It is particularly important to have them out in the spring; very often the birds come early and are endangered by a sudden cold wave or snow storm. In the spring of 1912 hundreds of Bluebirds starved to death in Illinois alone. Keep well stocked food houses, feeding shelves and baskets out this year. They are life-saving stations.

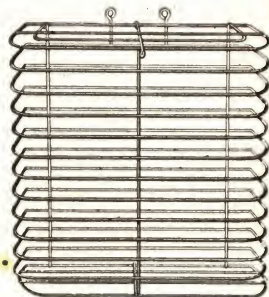
THE DODSON FOOD BASKET FOR BIRDS

Fill the food basket with melted suet mixed with ground nuts or any ground meat scraps. Attach to tree, post or to the side of a building.

This basket is made of tinned wire, electrically welded so that there are no sharp points. The birds cannot get hurt, as they often do on wire netting; nor can they get caught, for the wire is heavy and the basket is made carefully to protect the hungry little fellows from harm.

Set out a dozen of them. Leave them out all the year round. The birds need your help. These baskets will last for years.

Price 50 cents each, prepaid. \$5.00 a dozen.



The Dodson Food Basket
(Patent Applied For)



(Patent Applied For)

THE DODSON DOUBLE CHICKADEE OR NUT HATCH HOUSE

Built of selected white pine. Very fine, unique design with hinged front, making it instantly cleanable. Price \$2.50. With all copper roof, \$3.50.

"First Martin Comes In"

(Newspaper Clipping)

A Purple Martin came in from the Isle of Pines yesterday. After circling about it finally perched upon one of Joseph H. Dodson's bird houses in Evanston.

For six summers 200 Martins have returned to the Dodsons, who mark their birds with aluminum bands. In this way they are able to tell how many Martins make their "migrations" in safety each year.

One Purple Martin is said to destroy 1,000 mosquitoes a day. A colony of Martins can keep large orchards for miles around free from insects. Mr. Dodson, a director of the Illinois Audubon Society, has interested many persons in luring Martins back to their old haunts.—Chicago Tribune. April 7th.

(Patent Applied For)

THE DODSON SINGLE CHICKADEE OR NUT HATCH HOUSE

This is a very sightly little house. Rarely fails to attract the Chickadees or Nut Hatches. Price \$1.50. Six for \$8.00. With all copper roof, \$2.00. It has a hinged front, making it easily cleaned.





Birds Save Trees

All parts of the country have suffered from insect pests which did not exist until the slaughter of the birds had lessened their protection. John Davey, the pioneer tree surgeon, claims that millions of dollars are lost annually from the destruction of trees by insects because of the scarcity of

song birds. Where there are plenty of song birds no trees are seriously disturbed by insects.

The spread of the gypsy moth in New England is directly due to the decrease of the song birds. A record of a great outbreak of the gypsy moth in Europe states that after every human effort had failed to vanquish the pest the titmice and wrens, which appeared

in large numbers, conquered it within a few days. These birds also overcame a plague of moths which threatened to defoliate the trees in the parks of Brussels a few years ago.—Frederick J. Haslin, in Chicago Daily News.

THE DODSON SHELTER SHELF

For Robins, Cat Birds, Brown Thrashers, and other birds, which will build nests in these shelters. To be hung in shrubbery, or on a tree, or under the eaves of a building. It protects nests from wind and rain and also from crows and jays, which birds seem to fear it. Price \$1.50, or with all copper roof, \$2.00 f. o. b. Chicago.

For Robins, Cat Birds, Brown Thrashers, and other birds, which will build nests in these shelters. To be hung in shrubbery, or on a tree, or under the eaves of a building. It protects nests from wind and rain and also from crows and jays, which birds seem to fear it. Price \$1.50, or with all copper roof, \$2.00 f. o. b. Chicago.



(Patent
Applied
For)



BIRD HOUSES



The Dodson Square Flicker or
Woodpecker House
(Patent Applied For)

Size—23 inches long, 11 inches wide and 7½ inches deep. Built of strong one-inch rough lumber. Painted a dark gray color. This is a very unique design, front being hinged so that it can be instantly opened and cleaned. Price, \$2.50, with all copper roof, \$3.00, f. o. b. Chicago.

Dodson Zinc Bird Bath
(Patent Applied For)

This is a most interesting device and has proven very successful in attracting birds. Early in the morning they race through this bath from one end to the other. If you want to watch the birds keenly enjoying themselves, get one of these Zinc Bird Baths. Made of heavy zinc, with wire roll on upper edge. Size, 34x46 inches. 2 inches deep. Price, \$6.00 f. o. b. Chicago.



The Dodson Cement Bird Bath
(Patent Applied For)

Height over all, 32 inches. Bath basin, 34 inches in diameter. Depth, 3 inches. Price \$17.00. Price of bath basin without standard, \$9.00. Price of standard without bath basin, \$9.00.



THE DODSON

DODSON TRAP DOING GREAT WORK ON THE FARM

The Sparrow trap on my farm is certainly doing great work. Up to date we have caught something like 250 of the "little sinners," and that is not all of it. The uncaught ones are so fearful that there is some hidden danger on my place that they fight shy of it, although three or four daily find what I want them to.

R. T. STANTON,
Chicago, Ill.

August 26, 1913.

*Birds give you beauty and song
What have you done for the birds?*

Birds protect crops from insects.

Our Martin House on the 23d Day of April, 1911.

Our Martins returned the 12th of April, 1911, and on the 23d we had a severe snow storm. I found several Martins down on the ground in this snow almost frozen. These I brought in the house and wrapped carefully in a soft flannel cloth. Then I got a ladder, climbed up to the house and got the rest of them all in a box, covered with screen wire, and kept them in this for 48 hours, feeding them on raw meat chopped fine. After banding them, I let them go and they all flew direct to their house, and from their chirping I knew they were thanking me for my kindness. My Martins have become very tame, and I am sure know me and talk to me. I have some that have been with me now for five years.



Mr. Dodson, the Man the Birds love

BIRD HOUSES

How the Martins Came Within an Hour After the Dodson Martin House Was Set Up.

I enclose my check herewith for \$12 for the Martin house. The house arrived promptly, but as it was so late in the season I took my time putting it up. In fact, we did not get it up until Tuesday afternoon, May 20. The house had not been up an hour before it was visited by several Martins, who were evidently scouts. On the following day it was taken possession of by several colonies of Martins, who have been permanently settled for three days. Naturally, my wife and I as well as the children are much pleased with the result. The sparrow-trap which I ordered several days before the Martin house has not yet arrived.

Yours sincerely,
Gilbert H. Grosvenor,
Washington, D. C.

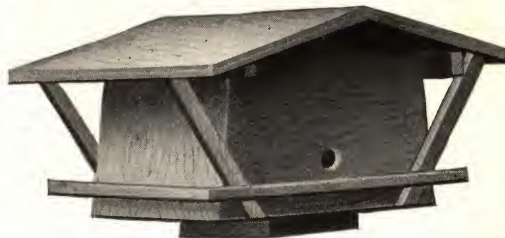
P. S. The Sparrow Trap has come and is working very satisfactorily.

(June 2, 1913)



House for Tree or White Bellied Swallow
(Patent Applied For)

12"x14"x9"; built of white pine. Price \$3.00 f. o. b. Chicago. With all copper roof, \$4.00. This house is also made with two compartments for Wrens or for Bluebirds. Ventilated and easily cleaned.

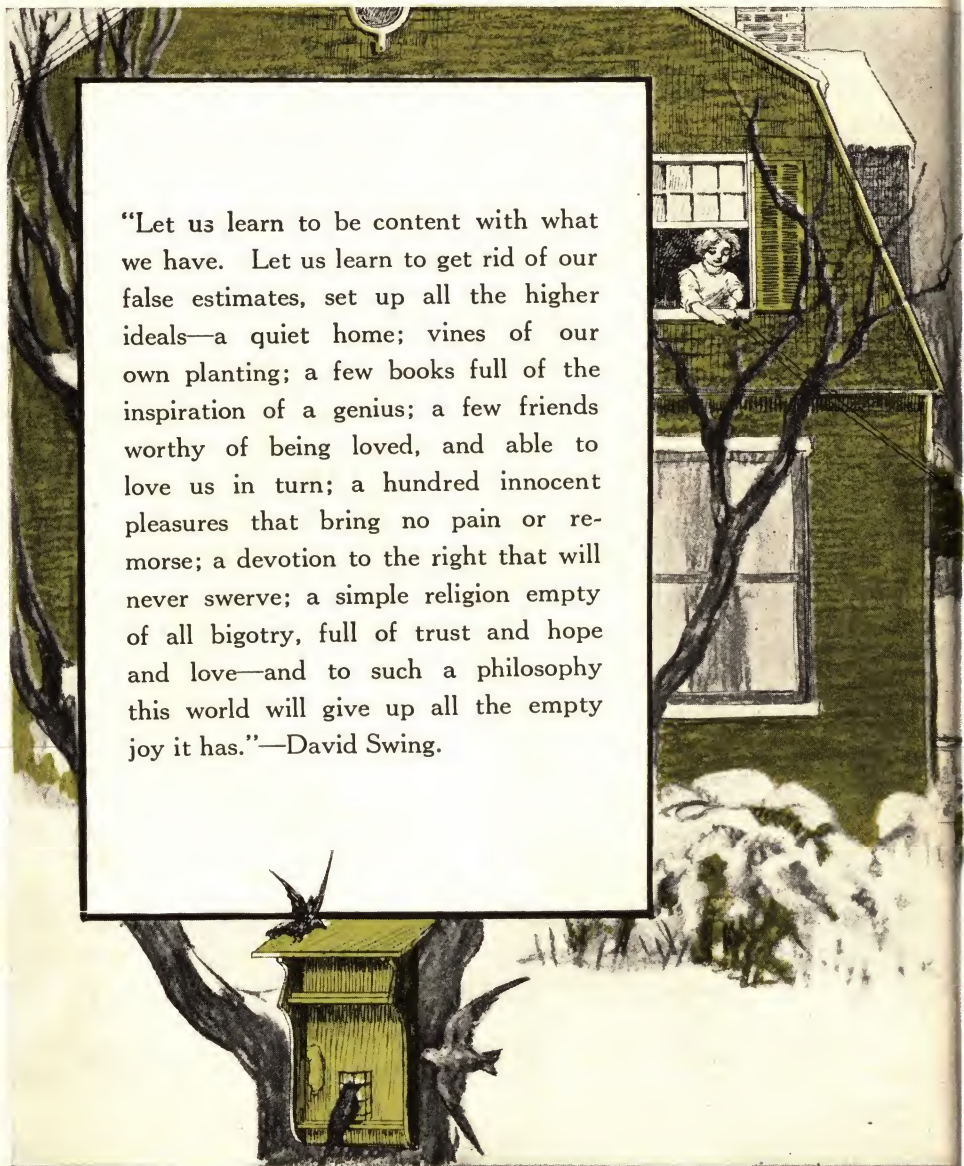


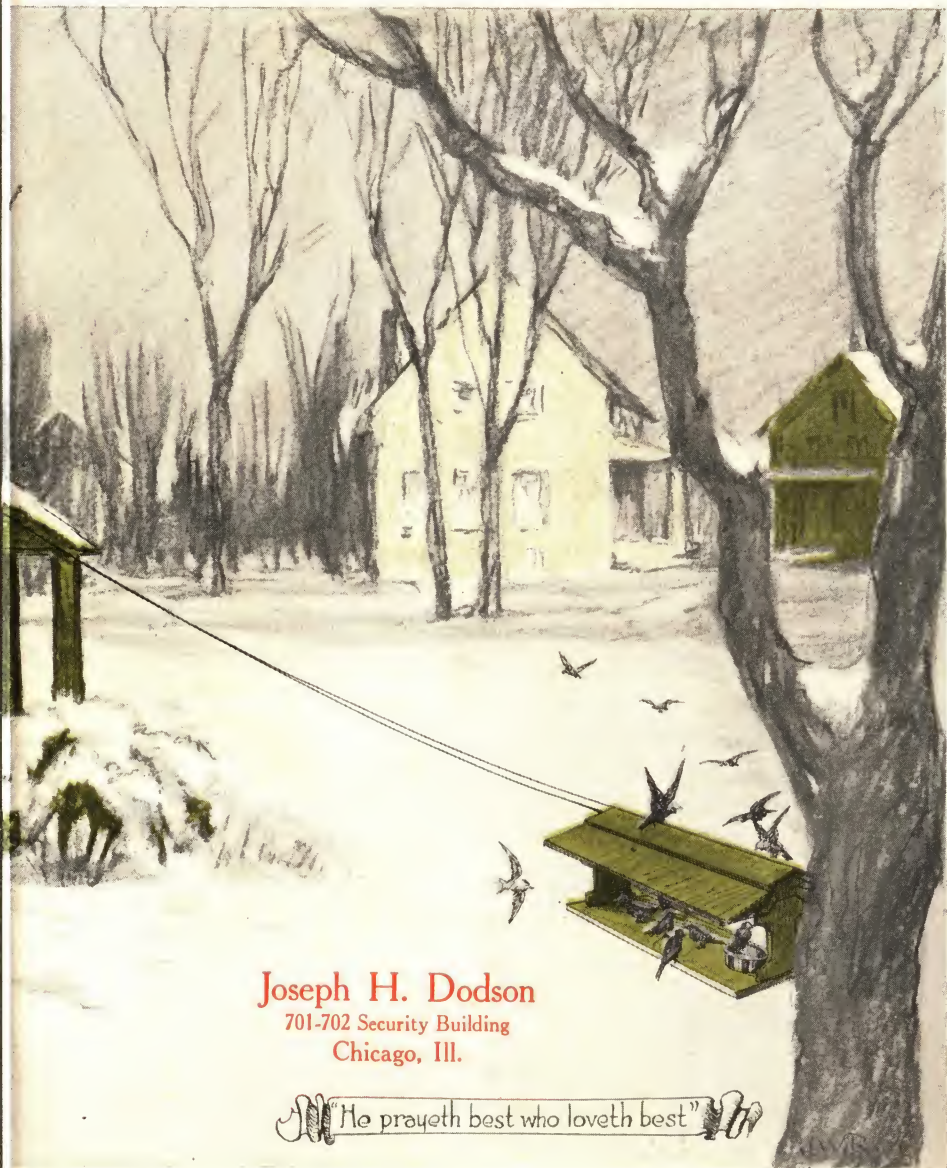
House for Great Crested Flycatcher
(Patent Applied For)

15"x11"x8"; built of white pine. Price \$3.00 f. o. b. Chicago. With all copper roof, \$4.00. This house is also made with two compartments for Wrens or for Bluebirds. Ventilated and easily cleaned.



"Let us learn to be content with what we have. Let us learn to get rid of our false estimates, set up all the higher ideals—a quiet home; vines of our own planting; a few books full of the inspiration of a genius; a few friends worthy of being loved, and able to love us in turn; a hundred innocent pleasures that bring no pain or remorse; a devotion to the right that will never swerve; a simple religion empty of all bigotry, full of trust and hope and love—and to such a philosophy this world will give up all the empty joy it has."—David Swing.





Joseph H. Dodson
701-702 Security Building
Chicago, Ill.

Who prayeth best who loveth best



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The DODSON BIRDHOUSES

